

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A bactericide against *Streptococcus mutans* and *Streptococcus sobrinus* comprising any one of the following proteins (1) to (3):

(1) a protein shown by the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a protein having the amino acid sequence derived therefrom in which ~~one or more amino acids~~ a maximum 5% of total amino acids are deleted, substituted ~~[[of]]~~ or added and having a lytic activity against *Streptococcus mutans* or *Streptococcus sobrinus*[[.]];

(2) a protein having a 100±10 kDa band of lysed bacteria in a zymography containing killed *Streptococcus mutans*[[.]]; and

(3) a protein obtained from cultured cells transformed by DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or DNA encoding said protein(1).

2. (Original) A preventive agent of tooth decay, a therapeutic agent of tooth decay, a toothpaste, an oral cavity cleaner or a preventive gum of tooth decay, containing the bactericide of claim 1.

3. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method for killing selectively *Streptococcus mutans* and *Streptococcus sobrinus* using any one of the following proteins (1) to (3):

(1) a protein shown by the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a protein having the amino acid sequence derived therefrom in which ~~one or more amino acids~~ a maximum 5% of total amino acids are deleted, substituted ~~[[of]]~~ or added and having a lytic activity against *Streptococcus mutans* or *Streptococcus sobrinus*[[.]];

(2) a protein having a 100±10 kDa band of lysed bacteria in a zymography containing killed *Streptococcus mutans*[[.]]; and

(3) a protein obtained from cultured cells transformed by DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or DNA encoding said protein(1).